

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 43

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to the establishment of the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 21, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 28, Peace. Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation, with specified duties. The measure would authorize the Senate Committee on Rules to make money available from the Senate operating fund as necessary for the expenses of the committee, as specified.

The measure would require the committee to report to the Legislature at the end of each legislative session on its findings and recommendations. The measure would authorize the committee to act until June 30, 1998, at which time the committee's existence would terminate.

WHEREAS, Workers' compensation costs and workers' compensation fraud were among the factors most frequently cited by business as contributing to a poor business climate in this state in 1993; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the Legislature enacted and the Governor signed a comprehensive workers' compensation reform package that resulted in reduced costs to California employers and increased benefits to injured workers; and

WHEREAS, Between 40 and 50 percent of all workers' compensation costs are paid for medical services; and

WHEREAS, Medical costs have not declined proportionately to the other costs in the workers' compensation system; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to concentrate legislative resources within one committee in order to study efficiently the effects of the reforms and to recommend further statutory changes, as necessary; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation is hereby established and authorized to do all of the following:

(1) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 1993 reforms to the workers' compensation system.

(2) Conduct oversight hearings and investigations as necessary to inform the Legislature about specific implementation activities.

(3) Recommend legislation to further improve the workers' compensation system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate Committee on Rules may make money available from the Senate operating fund as necessary for the expenses of the committee and its members; and be it further

Resolved, That any expenditure of funds shall be made in compliance with the policies set forth by the Senate Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the approval of that committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation shall report to the Legislature at the end of each legislative session on its findings and recommendations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation shall be composed of six members from the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, of which at least two members shall be from the majority party and at least two members shall be from the minority party, and six members from the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, of which at least two members shall be from the majority party and at least two members shall be from the minority party. One cochairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. One cochairperson shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation shall have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the provisions of the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly, as they are adopted and amended from time to time; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation shall, within 15 days of its initial authorization, and thereafter consistent with the normal annual appropriation process, present its budget to the Senate Committee on Rules for its review, comment, and approval; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation, subject to the approval of both the Senate Committee on Rules and the Assembly Committee on Rules, may contract with other agencies, public or private, as necessary to obtain services or studies that will assist the committee in carrying out its responsibilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation is authorized to act until June 30, 1998, at which time the committee's existence will terminate.

